



Welcome to the September edition of the Dulles Direct Newsletter. The Board of Supervisors has had a full month of meetings, including our Strategic Planning Retreat, which will help prioritize our goals over the next three years. The highlight of the retreat for me was that the Board almost unanimously agreed that Route 606 was our top transportation priority going forward. Beyond that, we've been dealing with many issues of concern to residents, updated below.

Town Hall Meeting

Thank you to those of you who joined me last night for the third quarterly Dulles Direct Town Hall meeting at Mercer Middle School. Over 80 residents attended the meeting, and your feedback on the proposed changes to Gum Spring road was useful. For those of you who missed the meeting, you can view the VDOT presentation on traffic plans for the Route 50 and Gum Springs road area by clicking [here](#). We'll now be working to address some of the concerns raised with the new configuration. I'll be holding one more Town Hall meeting this year, and I'm planning on attending several area HOA meetings over the coming months. Of course, you can always reach me by phone and email.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Athletic Fields Item Approved

Last week, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved my item to improve the utilization and maintenance of county and school athletic facilities. This item instructs staff and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board (PROSB) to perform an audit and inventory all county and school athletic facilities to determine current usage and provide a prioritized list of improvements with estimated costs. Further, this item requests the Joint Board/School Board Committee work with the PROSB and staff to study ways to increase shared usage of LCPS fields and the feasibility of the County taking over maintenance of LCPS fields. Finally, my item instructs staff to develop and implement a plan to provide portable restrooms at LCPS fields, with the expense to be reimbursed by field users.

My hope is this item will help overcome the deficit of approximately 169 athletic fields in the county, as estimated by Loudoun County Parks and Recreation department. While the County

continues to work toward opening more fields, the fact remains that fields compete for funding with other priorities such as transportation, schools, and public safety. The most cost effective solution at this point is to maximize field utilization and maintain current fields as best as we can. County staff will return with an update on their progress in November, with the full report on fields due to the BOS by January 2013. I'm thankful for the time and effort that Kristen Reed, Dulles District PROSB representative, has spent on these issues. I'm also pleased to have the help and cooperation of School Board Representative Jeff Morse on the LCPS field issues, and Dulles District Planning Commissioner Jeff Salmon on field planning issues.

Home Daycare

In last month's newsletter, I discussed an emerging problem for Loudoun County related to in-home daycare regulations. The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has implemented a new regulation that requires new and existing license holders to be in compliance with the county zoning requirements. Currently, the state license allows for the care of up to 12 children (not including the provider's own children). However, our county zoning ordinance allows for up to only nine children, including the provider's children under the age of 14. Because the vast majority of Loudoun's 144 licensed home daycares are not in compliance with the county's ordinance, the reality is that immediate enforcement of this provision would literally remove children from homes. This would create an unfortunate situation for children, providers and parents.

At the September 14 Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) meeting, I offered a motion to put the Board on track to develop sensible regulations that balance the character of our residential neighborhoods with the need for daycare. Most immediately, my motion would request an agreement with the Commonwealth that would essentially freeze enforcement of the regulation. My proposal is modeled after one in Fairfax to which the state has already agreed. This will allow us to have a rational, comprehensive discussion without having children losing their providers every month as renewals come forward. Second, my motion directed staff to develop strict performance standards that would allow for up to 12 children in a home in certain situations. Performance standards mean that certain zoning criteria, including density, would have to be met. Finally, my motion dropped the age that a provider's own child counts against the cap from 14 to 13, which is consistent with the state code. After nearly two hours of discussion, my motion passed the committee 3-1-1, and will now be considered by the Board of Supervisors at our October 3-4 meetings.

Attracting Commercial Development

The Board of Supervisors is committed to creating a business-friendly environment which encourages commercial growth and enhances the tax base. In order to facilitate this environment, the county has created a Fast Track option available for priority commercial development. Priority development industries include technology, federal government contractors and agencies, aerospace and airport supportive business and projects supporting those industry groups. The Fast Track option streamlines the development process, reduces approval times and provides a dedicated project manager for each applicant. For more information on this project, click [here](#).

Odyssey of the Mind Winners

Earlier this month, I was pleased to welcome students and parents from J. Michael Lunsford Middle School as well as Principal Neil Slavin to the Board Room for the presentation of Resolutions of Commendation to two Odyssey of the Mind teams who competed at World Finals in Iowa. These two teams, *To Be or Not To Be* and *Odyssey Angels*, were comprised of seven students and two coaches each. The teams placed first and second in the state competition, respectively, with the former placing 11th in the world competition. Odyssey of the Mind is a problem solving competition including teams from across the U.S. and about 25 countries.

Loudoun Survey Highlights

Periodically, Loudoun County conducts a survey of residents in the county to determine satisfaction with county services, gain demographic information and obtain opinions on issues such as growth management and transportation. The 2012 survey results were presented to the Board in September. The Center for Survey Research at the University of Virginia conducted the survey.

According to the survey, about 98% of respondents said they feel “safe” or “very safe” in their neighborhoods and nearly 94% of respondents classified their quality of life as “excellent” or “good.” Loudoun attracts residents to relocate here for many reasons, including work site location (31%), housing affordability (25%), family consideration (17%), and schools and community services (9%), among other reasons.

While there are many things to love about Loudoun, traffic remains the biggest problem facing residents, according to the survey. Thirty-nine percent of respondents stated traffic or transportation issues were the number one problem facing Loudoun. Growth and development ranked as the second biggest concern at 25%. Other problems identified included taxes (16%), and schools (11%). Overall, I’m pleased that the survey indicated that most residents are generally happy in Loudoun, but obviously we have significant challenges. The good news is that the Board’s priorities seem to be aligned with the concerns expressed by citizens.

Croson Lane -Claiborne Parkway Concerns

If you live in the northern section of the Dulles District, you may have seen the signs indicating that stop signs on Claiborne Parkway at the intersection with Croson Lane are slated to be removed. Residents have expressed concern to me that such action would cause more traffic issues at that intersection. The current four-way stop configuration was installed by the developer, who presently owns these sections of roadway. The developer is now in the process of turning control of the roads over to VDOT, who conducted a warrant analysis of this intersection. VDOT concluded through the analysis that a four-way stop was not warranted for this intersection. I don’t think this makes much sense, at least until Claiborne Parkway is completed down to Loudoun County Parkway in a few years. Therefore, I have asked VDOT not to move forward with removal of these signs. **I’m pleased to report that VDOT has responded to my concerns by agreeing to maintain the current four-way stop configuration until a signal is installed as part of the Claiborne Parkway project.**

DULLES DISTRICT UPDATES

New Braddock Road Park Named

On September 18, the Board of Supervisors approved the name “Goshen Corner Park” for a 4.11 acre active/passive park located at the intersection of Braddock Road and Goshen Road near the community of Stratshire Crossing. This name was selected through a public naming process conducted by the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Board earlier this year.

New Absentee Voting Option

Those of you who have read previous updates know that I was able to obtain funding for a new absentee voting location in the Dulles District for the first time this year. The County has now announced the dates and hours that in person absentee voting will be conducted at the Dulles South Multipurpose Center. From October 22-November 3, you may vote absentee at the Multipurpose Center Monday-Friday from 4 pm-8 pm and Saturday from 9 am – 5 pm. I hope residents who will have trouble making it to the polls on Election Day will take advantage of this new opportunity. This year is essentially a pilot for in person voting at this location—but if turnout is strong, I will have an easier time keeping the absentee precinct here in future elections.

Dulles Landing Groundbreaking

On September 20, the Beatty Companies of McLean broke ground on the Dulles Landing Shopping Center, located at Route 50 and Loudoun County Parkway. I have heard from many residents who are frustrated with the lack of retail options in the Route 50 corridor. In addition to inconvenience, Loudoun is losing sales tax revenue to Fairfax County at Chantilly Crossing every day. Dulles Landing has thus far announced that it will have a new concept WalMart store, Petsmart, Famous Footwear, Five Below, and Sleepy’s, with more tenants to come. The 600,000 square foot development has been designed with a restaurant enclave and a traditional town square. Other amenities include bicycle and walking paths, as well as water features and dramatic lighting designs. I am pleased to see previously stalled developments like Dulles Landing moving forward, offering more conveniences for our community. As part of the budget enhancement that I helped put together for the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development, retail development will be an increasing focus. Construction is now under way at Dulles Landing, with the center expecting to open to the public in late 2013.

New Traffic Pattern on Route 50

On or about October 1st, I have been alerted by VDOT that there will be a shift in the regular traffic pattern for eastbound Route 50 traffic between Poland Road and Tall Cedars Parkway in Loudoun County. Just east of Poland Road in Loudoun County, eastbound Route 50 traffic will be diverted approximately 50 feet to the South up to the intersection at Tall Cedars Parkway. The traffic switch will occur at night and will be fully operational Monday morning (Oct. 1st)—weather permitting. We know from past experience that pattern changes often cause even worse delays—so plan accordingly.

This traffic shift will not affect the access to or from any of the side streets or entrances coming off Route 50. For more information on the Route 50 widening project please click [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moorefield Station Elementary School Boundary Process

Two new elementary schools will be opening at the start of the 2013-14 school year – Discovery Elementary School (ES-22) which will be located at 44020 Grace Bridge Drive in Ashburn and Moorefield Station Elementary School (ES-16) which will be located in the Dulles District at 22325 Mooreview Parkway in Ashburn. The opening of these two schools requires the formation of new elementary school attendance zones for the greater Ashburn area. In establishing attendance zones for the two new schools, the current attendance boundaries for Ashburn-area elementary schools, including the two that Dulles District children attend (Creighton's Corner and Rosa Lee Carter,) will be reviewed.

The Loudoun County School Board has scheduled a series of meetings to facilitate the necessary attendance zone changes for the greater Ashburn area elementary schools. All of the meetings will be open to the public; all persons are invited to attend. You can find a list of the scheduled meetings in a letter from LCPS Superintendent Hatrick [here](#).

Diviney Yard Sale Benefit

The "DeClutter for Diviney Family Event and Yard Sale" will be held on Saturday, September 29 from 8am-2pm at the Village Center at Belmont Greene, 42920 Picadilly Plaza, Ashburn. Ryan Diviney, from Ashburn, was brutally beaten in a parking lot at his college in 2009 and has been in a coma ever since. His ongoing daily medical care is handled by his family in the basement of their home. All proceeds will go toward helping Ryan's family with medical expenses. For more information, please email declutter4ryan@gmail.com.

Drive In and Give

The South Riding Women in Business and the South Riding Lions Club are conducting a blood/coat/food drive on Saturday, October 27 from 10am-2pm in the parking lot of the Giant in Riding Plaza. The Inova Blood Donor Services Bus will be there for you to donate blood (and every donor gets a Halloween-themed t-shirt). Sign up for an appointment at www.inovabloodsaves.org. You may also bring coats and non-perishable food to donate via Loudoun Interfaith.

Tiles at the Gum Spring Library

Hand-crafted donor tiles are being sold by the Friends of the Gum Springs Library to help provide important enhancements to the library such as added resources and programs for families, teens, seniors, and those with special needs. Tiles will be located throughout the library and come in a variety of sizes for all budgets. You can order by contacting gumspringlibrary@msn.com.